



By email – available on <https://www.fia.com>

To: FIA Members  
From: FIA Ethics Committee  
Pages: 2  
Date: 8 November 2021

Subject: FIA Presidential Elections

Dear Presidents,  
Dear FIA Members,  
Dear FIA Community,

Upon our suggestion and with the approval of the FIA President, and in line with the **Ethics Committee Recommendations** in relation to the Presidential Elections 2021, the FIA Ethics Committee would like to share with the FIA Community certain concerns and provide the necessary advice.

Regular, free and fair elections are essential to achieving the highest standards of **governance, integrity and democracy** set forth by our Statutes. In this respect, our duty is to ensure that anyone involved in the electoral campaign and the voting procedure complies with the standards of conduct set out by the FIA Code of Ethics.

We are referring in particular to the principle of **political neutrality** mentioned by Art. 3.1 of the FIA Code of Ethics and referenced in (i) the FIA Ethics Committee recommendations in view of the presidential elections, and (ii) the FIA presidential elections guidelines.

From an electoral perspective, political neutrality requires that all FIA members have the right and are able to freely express their preferences and designate their representatives with no interference from any third party, such as local or foreign governments and officials, or national and supranational public agencies.

In this respect, the Ethics Committee has recently been asked if **lobbying and endorsement practices** might result in an infringement of the principles mentioned above.

Lobbying and endorsement are legitimate practices, but potentially controversial. Exercising political pressure or any other form of pressure on an FIA Member in order to influence their vote at the presidential elections would constitute an infringement of FIA fundamental principles. It would be a more severe infringement if such pressure included a request that a FIA Member give photographic evidence of the ballots he or she has cast.

It has been reported that this might be happening at the FIA, which would be a matter of serious concern for the whole FIA community.

We are therefore writing to remind all candidates, all voting members, and all FIA stakeholders, to comply with the highest standards of conduct and to refrain from any misconduct.

In summary:

1. **FIA Clubs should be able to cast their vote freely and confidentially in elections.**
2. **FIA clubs should not be put under undue influence as it pertains to how to cast their vote.**
3. **We understand that it is a fact of political life that third parties -- and indeed some FIA clubs -- will have, and may express, a preference for who is elected. Within reason, such endorsements are acceptable.**
4. **Conversely, activities that cross the line, and thus constitute undue influence, include:**
  - a. **Threatening voters who do not support a certain candidate.**
  - b. **Offering rewards to voters who support a certain candidate.**

- c. **Asking voters to photograph their completed ballot when casting it.**
5. **Third parties that are not associated with the FIA, such as foreign governments, may engage in activities the FIA doesn't have the power to control. However, candidates or any member of FIA Clubs or FIA Community who are aware of any such activities should report them immediately to the EC.**
6. **Equally important, candidates and their supporters have to abstain from encouraging any such activities.**

Do not to hesitate to report a concern to the FIA Ethics Committee. You have several ways in which to do so.

- You can submit a complaint to the FIA Ethics Committee via email sent to [ethics.committee@fia.com](mailto:ethics.committee@fia.com)
- You can submit a report through the FIA Ethics and Compliance Hotline, available at <https://www.fia.com/fia-ethics-and-compliance-hotline>

Submissions can be anonymous, but please ensure that they are duly substantiated.

Without prejudice to the prerogatives of the FIA President, the Ethics Committee will not hesitate to open an investigation if necessary.

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of the FIA Ethics Committee



François Bellanger  
President of FIA Ethics Committee